

## Smoking Policies at Food-Serving Businesses in Iowa: Summary of Findings

Prepared by the Center for Social and Behavioral Research, University of Northern Iowa  
For the Iowa Department of Public Health, Division of Tobacco Use Prevention and Control  
February 2007

### *Characteristic of Respondents & Establishments*

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- ✦ In October and November 2006, telephone interviews were conducted with the owner (84%) or manager (16%) of 601 randomly selected food-serving establishments in Iowa.
- ✦ Nearly one-half of businesses (46%) were sit-down restaurants, one-third (33%) were bars & grills, and the remaining one-fifth (21%) were from other types of food-serving establishments (e.g., cafés, delis). Two-thirds (66%) of all establishments in this study had liquor licenses.

### *Current Policies & Practices*

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- ✦ In this study, an establishment was considered smoke-free if *smoking was not allowed by customers, employees, or anyone else anywhere inside the building at any time*. One-third (34%) of all establishments were “smoke-free” at the time of the survey. Specifically, 2% of bars & grills and 39% of sit-down restaurants were smoke-free.
- ✦ Among those establishments that were smoke-free, the two main reasons for becoming smoke-free were personal values (59%) and public health concerns (36%).
- ✦ According to owners and managers of smoke-free establishments, the general responses to their smoke-free policies have been predominately positive from customers (91%) and employees (85%).
- ✦ About two-thirds (67%) of owners and managers of establishments who have changed to a smoke-free policy said it did not have a financial impact on their business, and 27% reported a positive financial impact.
- ✦ Only 3% of owners and managers said they offer health insurance to their employees that cover resources such as nicotine replacement or smoking cessation classes to help their employees quit smoking.

### *Future Policies & Practices*

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- ✦ If smoking were to be banned in restaurants, 49% supported a ban by state law and 34% by local ordinances.
- ✦ If smoking were to be banned in bars, 50% supported a ban by state law and 32% by local ordinances.

### *Opinions about Tobacco & Health*

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- ✦ Among owners or managers of sit-down restaurants, 42% said they thought smoking should not be allowed at all in restaurants. Among owners and managers of bars & grills, 79% said they thought smoking should be allowed without restriction in bars.
- ✦ Nearly all (98%) owners and managers thought smoking was harmful to one’s health, and 79% thought people should be protected from second-hand smoke.

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